

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1381

By Johnson P

A RESOLUTION recognizing Amy Davis-Bruce and Katie Conley for their efforts following the recent flooding in Cheatham County.

WHEREAS, over the weekend of May 1-2, 2010, Middle Tennessee was struck by the worst flooding in recorded history, and many communities throughout this State were adversely affected by the rising waters; and

WHEREAS, as the flood waters rose, thousands of Tennesseans leapt into action and, working hard to help those in need, proved once again that no state's nickname is as fitting or as meaningful as Tennessee's. The Volunteer State is proud to be the home of so many brave men and women who, at any moment, will unhesitatingly step forward and dedicate themselves to helping those in need; and

WHEREAS, two such citizens are Amy Davis-Bruce and Katie Conley, sisters and owners of Red Tree Coffee in Kingston Springs, who, in the weeks following the recession of the flood waters, have used their coffee shop as a base of operations for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of volunteers and have organized and facilitated the recovery of their community; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, these two intrepid women called a meeting for the purpose of organizing a community volunteer effort, hoping to help their friends and neighbors until such time as help arrived from state and federal emergency management agencies; and

WHEREAS, Red Tree Coffee served as the headquarters for the subsequent volunteer efforts: project managers were assigned; home projects, food, furniture, clothing, housing, and volunteers were coordinated; and those in need used the shop as a place of respite; and

WHEREAS, all efforts from the coffee shop were coordinated by Amy Davis-Bruce, Katie Conley, and Melody Burr, and the three also designed a database that tracked all the projects and the volunteers who assisted; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis-Bruce and Mrs. Conley also sponsored a community-wide event on May 8 that drew more than 300 volunteers, each of whom then gave of their time and energies to help those whose homes were damaged or destroyed; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that during the first week of the volunteer effort, more than 3,500 sack lunches were prepared and distributed to flood victims and volunteers, and countless donations were given, collected, and distributed by those wanting only to help their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, even following the arrival of the American Red Cross, the men and women of Cheatham County continued to help their neighbors in whatever way necessary, from home repair to food delivery; and

WHEREAS, these two inspiring women helped their community as they would have helped their own families, and stand as two of the finest examples of volunteerism this State has to offer; and

WHEREAS, Amy Davis-Bruce is married to Cole Bruce, and Katie Conley is married to Jon Conley and the couple have two children, Savannah and Polly; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that Amy Davis-Bruce and Katie Conley be formally recognized for their coordination efforts and for the extraordinary spirit of volunteerism they have exhibited and inspired in others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend Amy Davis-Bruce and Katie Conley for their untiring efforts following the recent flooding of their community and applaud the quick and dedicated response of the hundreds of Cheatham Countians who sought only to help those in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.